

Harry Frazee Puts Muffler on Rumors That Babe Ruth Will Be Disposed Of by Boston Red Sox

LITTLE CHANCE OF RED SOX LETTING GO OF BABE RUTH

Frazee, Anxious to Quit Game, Would Knock Himself Out of About Half Million If He Disposed of Stars.

BY DEANMAN THOMPSON.

Selling Babe Ruth is the favorite pastime these days of the dope dealers. It has become almost an obsession with the directors of the rumor factories, who seldom permit an edition to go to press without some reference to the likelihood that before the athletes start their annual trek southward the owners of the Red Sox will have been shunted from the spacious confines of Fenway Park to some other ballfield in the American League in return for an annual salary of \$1,250,000.

These reports are not confined to the obscure benches of the yarn foundry, either. Some of the most plausible having emanated right from the Hub of the Universe, where the ponderous pestle of the pen has been busy for many a day.

First, there is his announced intention of turning up his three-year contract calling for \$1,000,000 a season and which has two years to run, and refusing to play unless the yearly stipend is boosted to \$1,250,000.

Then there is the charge, confirmed by Boston newspaper writers in close touch with the situation, that Ruth's presence on the club is detrimental to it, in that his work so greatly overshadows that of the other players that they have become dissatisfied; that the club is split with dissension as a result of Ruth hogging the spotlight. The sixth place position the Red Sox landed in this year after winning the world championship in 1918 and being expected to repeat is cited as proof of this assertion, which in itself is regarded as sufficient justification for disposing of the slugger.

Use a Pinch of Salt.

But do not place too much reliance in the Ruth-is-to-go propaganda. It is well to remember that the boss of the Red Sox is first of all a theatrical man, base ball really being a side issue. He has all the advertising instincts of the typical showman and is a firm believer in the policy of keeping his name "in the papers." Furthermore, Ruth is not far behind him in this respect, as is demonstrated

however, and it is for just this reason that he is not expected to sell them.

Would Lose Half Million.

Valuable as Fenway Park is from a real estate standpoint, he could not get more than \$500,000 for the land alone, so the franchise and players, according to his own valuation of \$1,250,000, are held at \$750,000. Without the ground and stands the value of the franchise and players would take a terrific slump and without the players it would be ditto for the franchise.

The largest sum Frazee could hope to induce any sane man to pay for Ruth, Scott, Schang and McInnis is less than \$200,000, so that if he sold them it is doubtful if he could get \$750,000 for the grounds, franchise and what remained of the playing talent. Thus he would knock himself out of half a million of the \$1,250,000 he is hopeful of obtaining.

Only One Way to Clean Up.

Is Harry Frazee, the business man, considering any such fool move as this? We'll say he's not. His only chance to clean up is to preserve all of his assets intact, awaiting the time he can dispose of them, and, if his figures are not met, continue to operate the club. The latter contingency is by no means discounting him. If he can continue to pack 'em in as he did this year he should worry whether he has a sixth-place team or, for that matter, where it finishes in the standing of the clubs.

Frazee may sell Ruth. Anything can happen in base ball. But we do not think he will until Battering Babe is included in a deal that also includes the transfer of the Boston club and all of its assets, lock, stock and barrel.

LIPTON'S SHAMROCK IV READY FOR REMODELING

NEW YORK, December 26.—Dramatic changes, virtually amounting to remodeling, will be made on the Shamrock IV. Sir Thomas Lipton's challenger for the America's cup, according to reports current in well-informed yachting circles here today. The most important change, it is said, will be to shorten the challenger's keel by about five feet for the purpose of increasing speed in windward work.

The yacht is now in the hands of expert shipbuilders near City Island, having been moved there recently from the Erie basin, where she had been housed for four years. The preliminary work of making the changes already has been started, reports state.

FIVE STARS ONLY BAIT THAT CAN LAND RUTH

This Is Only Offer Frazee Will Listen To—Expects Babe to Remain in Boston.

BOSTON, December 26.—A long-distance telephone conversation with Owner H. Frazee of the Red Sox early today brought forth a strong denial that Babe Ruth had been traded to the New York Yankees or that there was a deal on with the New York club for him.

Frazee said: "Although I announced in Boston a short time ago that a member of the Red Sox, except Capt. Harry Hooper, might be traded, I did not mean I would let players go for men who could not make the Red Sox pennant contenders."

"I would trade Ruth or any other player, providing I can get the kind of material that will give Boston a championship team."

"For Ruth I would expect at least five star players. I think Babe is worth that many, because he is a great drawing card as well as the champion home-run hitter of the game."

However, it now looks as though Babe would remain in Boston, because there are no clubs in the American League that could give me the men I want for him."

Lieut. C. B. Hamilton of This City Describes Experience With A. E. F.

That the life of an athletic officer with the American expeditionary forces was not all beer and skittles was the experience of Lieut. Charles B. Hamilton, a widely known athlete of this city, and possibly the last District National Guard officer to leave France. Lieut. Hamilton arrived in this city Monday night. He landed in New York Monday.

Picked Him Out.

"They picked me out to be athletic officer of my outfit," said Lieut. Hamilton today, "and believe me it was no cinch. My telephone was the busiest in our headquarters. I sometimes answered 250 calls in one day. And work! I was on the job fifteen hours or more a day. But we developed the winning foot ball team in the second army, and were on the way to turning out a crack track team when I was transferred to the rentals, requisitions and claims service."

Lieut. Hamilton Wounded.

Hamilton was wounded by a piece of shell in the St. Mihiel sector. He was in the hospital for more than a month.

He was connected with the 3d District Infantry, which, after being mobilized from March 12, 1917, was mustered in again April 1 of the same year. The outfit went to Camp Greene, where its personnel was distributed among units of the 41st Division. Hamilton was assigned to the 16th Infantry, and was detailed to depot duty when he arrived in France.

Headed a Foot Ball Team.

Lieut. Hamilton was captain of the Central High School foot ball team in 1907, and played on the team of George Washington University following his graduation from high school.

His brother, Maj. George W. Hamilton, is connected with the 5th Marines. He arrived in this country yesterday from Haiti, where he was sent following the cessation of hostilities in Europe. His father is Charles A. Hamilton, a veteran Washington correspondent.

When Maj. Hamilton arrives in this city and meets his brother, whom he has not seen since the outbreak of the war, there will be a reunion at the Hamilton home, 1032 Lamont street.

HARVARD AT PASADENA

Selection of Officials and Numbering Players May Be Determined Tomorrow.

PASADENA, Calif., December 26.—The arrival today of the Harvard foot ball team which is to meet the University of Oregon eleven on New Year day, increased interest in the choice of officials for the game. Although the names of a number of eastern and western men have been mentioned, no announcement of the selection of officials is expected before tomorrow.

The matter of whether the players shall wear identifying numbers on the field also is unsettled. During the last season the Oregon team wore the numbers in every game, but the Harvard management has not yet announced whether the system will be adopted.

With interest almost equal to that displayed in the arrival of the Harvard team, enthusiasts who have not yet obtained tickets of admission followed the quest of the foot ball committee of the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association for 'nails. All of the 27,000 seats in Tournament Park have been sold, but more will be erected if the committee can obtain the necessary nails, of which there has been a scarcity here for several weeks.

Alec to Coach Illinois Pitchers.

CHICAGO, December 26.—Grover Cleveland Alexander, star pitcher of the Chicago National League team, has accepted an offer to coach University of Illinois boxmen. Alexander plans to go to Urbana about the middle of January and remain there until the Cubs depart for their California training camp.

Teddy Cann to Close Career in '20.

Teddy Cann, the famous New York Athletic Club swimmer, now a resident of Detroit, will conclude his career in 1920 if he will try for international laurels as a fitting conclusion to a long list of triumphs.

Camp Dix Takes Up Polo.

Camp Dix, Wrightstown, N. J., will lay out a polo field incidental to introducing the sport at the big cantonment. Equipment has been secured.

Eleanor Goss to Practice on Coast.

Miss Eleanor Goss, one of the most skillful lawn tennis players in New York, will shortly go to the Pacific coast to practice previous to trying for the national title at Philadelphia.

INSURGENTS REPORTED READY TO COMPROMISE LEAGUE ROW

BOSTON, December 26.—New developments in the American League are being awaited here with interest. The Boston, New York and Chicago factions, made up of the insurgent club owners who are opposed to Ban Johnson, president of the league, may desire to compromise.

It is felt by some of the close friends of the insurgents, that they can no longer continue to have trouble in the league, because of the spring training season plans, which must be completed early in January. If the trouble continues it will also serve to keep the players mindful of holding out, for they will demand more money and probably try and do the Mays stunt.

Base ball cannot afford to go along this way. The men who have their thousands invested should protect the money, and also consider that the longer there is dissension in the league rank the more that fans will condemn the game.

Right here in Boston, where the fans are as loyal as any in the country, there is plenty of sentiment against the American League. Many fans believe that Ban Johnson was positively right in the Mays case and that the Red Sox and New York clubs should take their medicine.

Regarding other mistakes that Johnson is alleged to have made, the fans do not care a hoot. The sooner they are settled, however, the better they will be satisfied and will be in readiness to give the 1920 season a remarkable send-off.

What the fans of Boston are principally interested in is whether the Red Sox are going to be in the race next year. They are anxious to hear who the Red Sox have obtained in trades and by purchase.

It is fully realized that the Sox need some pitching material for the 1920 race. The supporters of the game are perfectly willing to wait until they are made known, but hope that the grinding by the loyalists and insurgents will soon cease.

can say that no one in the country has ever, day after day, pitched near the hole that I have, and I have been pitching near holes, year after year, all over the country. I have made numerous twos, and once landed a home run. I made a hole in the instance at the Chicago Golf Club was the only time the ball disappeared into the cup when driven. Another time I made in one hole. I have been able to make numerous holes in two on holes where the green

cannot be reached from the tee.

This allotment of holes in one to golfers is really an interesting and curious thing. I dare say there are a large number of golfers throughout the country, whom I could give large handicaps, who have made many more holes in one than I have.

It is said that one of the big English golf magazines has an honor roll for golfers who have made a hole in one, and I would like to know how many holes in one Britain's big three—Vardon, Braid and Taylor—have made. It is rumored that Vardon has not one to his credit.

I think the only time a hole has ever been made in one during a national championship was at Detroit, in 1915, when Robert Gardner holed out from the tee on the 160-yard sixth hole at Detroit. His opponent had a two, and that is probably the only time in the history of big championships that a two has lost the hole.

Every one remembers Ned Allich's hole in one at Homewood during the western championship of 1913. It is perhaps the most famous of all American holes in one, for it was a smashing drive from the tee of the old first hole, and that hole measures over 300 yards. It is a record breaker, and people have never tired talking about it. Right here, however, is an interesting point to note—it is much easier for a rolling ball to hole out than it is for one to land in the hole either on the carry, or bounce, and stay there. Therefore, I think there are more ones made on holes that are over 150 yards than on those under that distance. The pin in the hole makes a difference, too. I have seen balls strike in the canvas of the flag and drop in and stay, but that is the only circumstance where I have seen the ball stay in the cup when driven.

Once in Glen View Golf Club tournament Chandler Egan made the seventh hole in one, and then a player, unknown to fame, who was behind him, did the identical thing. Douglas Grant, while playing the California championship at Del Monte against Jack Neville recently made the eleventh hole in one.

Nearly all the clubs hold choice "score or 'ringer" events, and it would be interesting to check up on these and find out how many ones are made during the season.

There are the stock stories at golf

clubs of the player who comes bounding into the nineteenth hole, declaring he has made a hole in one, only to discover that John Smith, who was ahead of him, had deposited the ball in the hole. I advise the joker who fancies this to try it only on a blind hole.

There is another story told, too, of the drunken man, who made a hole in one, and when his caddy, after a search, showed him the ball, said: "Barn the luck! Give me my riddle." Just consider how perfect a riddle must be to go in the hole in one shot. What a miracle of distance, direction, windage, height, break and ground went into its making, and yet the last one I heard of being made was by a player who had topped his shot, hit on the top of a bunker near the green and ran up the hole.

A prominent professional once said a ball has to go somewhere, and might as well go into the hole.

\$70,000 to Salvation Army

The National Horse Show Association has donated \$70,000 to the Salvation Army as the receipt for the annual game with Cornell at the Philadelphia Thanksgiving day.

Pennsylvania has ten foot

games scheduled next fall, including the usual game with Cornell at the Philadelphia Thanksgiving day.

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